

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04959 251056Z

43

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9719

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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UNCLAS ANKARA 4959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES CIVIL DISTURBANCES

REF: A. ANKARA 4927 B. ANKARA 4886

1. IN A STORMY SESSION ON JUNE 24, THE TURKISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATED THE RECENT CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN GEREDE AND DIYARBAKIR (REFTELS), WITH PARTY SPOKESMEN CONTINUING TO EXCHANGE ACCUSATIONS OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENTS. INTERIOR MINISTER OGUZHAN ASILTURK, SPEAKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, GAVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS, DENYING CHARGES BY THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) THAT PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAD FAILED TO TAKE ADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES IN GEREDE. HE SAID THAT THE GEREDE RIOT FLARED UP WHEN AN RPP DEPUTY FIRED A PISTOL AT A MOSQUE OPPOSITE THE SITE OF THE RPP

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04959 251056Z

RALLY. ASILTURK'S SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY

SHOUTS AND PROTESTS FROM THE FLOOR AND AT ONE POINT RPP DEPUTIES BEGAN MARCHING TOWARD THE ROSTRUM. SPEAKER KEMAL GUVEN MANAGED TO RESTORE ORDER.

2. IN A SHARP REPLY, RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT ACCUSED THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OF CREATING ANARCHY IN THE COUNTRY. HE CONTINUED: "FOR THE LAST TIME WE ARE INVITING THE GOVERNMENT TO BE THE GOVERNMENT...IF IT CANNOT MANAGE TO ACT LIKE A GOVERNMENT WE CALL ON IT TO RESIGN...." HE CONCLUDED THAT EVEN A GOVERNMENT CRISIS WAS BETTER THAN HAVING A GOVERNMENT WHICH USES THE RESOURCES OF THE STATE TO "INCITE A CRISIS" IN THE COUNTRY.

3. SPOKESMEN FOR OTHER PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DEBATE ALSO FOLLOWED PARTISAN LINES.

A. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) DEPUTY ILHAMI ERTEM, WHO WAS ALSO INTERRUPTED BY DISTURBANCES ON THE FLOOR, SAID THE COUNTRY WAS BEING DRAGGED INTO A "REGRETTABLE PERIOD" AND TO THE RPP MEMBERS, HE ADDED: "YOU ARE MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK YOU CAN PREVENT US FROM SPEAKING BY BRUTE FORCE."

B. DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) SPOKESMAN MEHMET ALTINSOY, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS INCAPABLE OF PREVENTING RIOTS AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER. "WE DO NOT (RPT NOT) THINK THAT THIS GOVERNMENT CAN OVERCOME THE DOMESTIC UPHEAVALS, " HE DECLARED.

4. MEANWHILE, DEPUTY PRIMIN ALPASLAN TURKES, SPEAKING IN THE EASTERN TURKISH CITY OF URFA, REPEATED HIS ACCUSATION THAT THE RPP HAD INSTIGATED THE ISTURBANCE IN DIYARBAKIR. "IF SUCH EVENTS CONTINUE," HE WARNED, "THE OTHER PARTIES WILL NOT (RPT NOT) ALLOW THE RPP TO SPEAK ANYWHERE."
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